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JASON'S JOURNEY SINCE GATEWAY

The Dream that Changed My Life

By Jason Cragg, TMI Outreach Trainer

My journey since taking the Gateway Voyage has been a very interesting and amazing one.

WHAT'S GATEWAY

Ever since I can remember there has been a huge list of things that I had convinced myself that I was not capable of doing. Since Gateway, things on my "Can't Do List" have been slowly removed and been added to the "Can Do List."

One of the things I had clearly convinced myself of was that I was not good at writing, but this year that perception has totally changed.

Earlier this year on a whim, I submitted my "dream story" to the Chicken Soup for the Soul Publishing company who was looking for dream stories and the effects they had. I wrote down what happened to me on the first night home from Gateway and how it has totally changed and revolutionized my entire life over the last few years. I was shocked when I received a letter from the publisher saying that my story had made it into the final round from the thousands of stories submitted.

A few weeks later I received another letter saying that my story did not make it into the book, but I realized that even getting as far as I did was something that I would have said was impossible only a few years ago. This amazing experience sparked within me a huge desire to get my story out even more.

I have set my intention to get my story out to the mass public by writing a whole book. I see this book as a way of Paying it Forward to the TMI Scholarship Fund because I want a good percentage from the sale of the books to go into the fund, so that other people can go to Gateway and have a life changing experience too. I still don't know how this whole thing will happen as this is completely new and uncharted territory for me but I believe that somehow it will eventually happen.

I can't thank everyone at TMI enough for being part of this wonderful experience and journey I have been on over the last few years.

Many Blessings,
Jason

Below is the story I submitted to Chicken Soup for the Soul on February 21, 2015.

Creating My Own Personal Renaissance After Experiencing the Dream that Totally Changed My Life in March 2012



It was my first night home after getting back from Vancouver Island where I had spent a week participating in a program called the Gateway Voyage. Little did I know that while I was in the program, things were changing deep within myself. As I had driven out to Vancouver Island from Winnipeg and back, I knew from some of the strange things happening driving back that things seemed a little different, but I had no idea of how radically things in my life were about to change until I went to sleep and had the craziest dream of my life that changed everything—

I was standing in front of a crowd of 400 plus people, including my immediate and extended family. I was trying to do a presentation to the crowd but everyone was talking, being noisy and I was unable to get anyone to pay attention and listen to me. I was getting extremely frustrated and upset and so I said I'd had enough and that I was quitting and walked out of the room.

Once I was in the hallway trying to calm myself down, this woman appears out of nowhere in front of me and asked me why I was upset. I told her that no one would listen and that I was incapable of doing a presentation or lecture like this. She looked at me straight into my eyes and told me that I can do the speech and that I had what it took to make all those people listen to what I had to say, while the whole time she never stopped looking deep into my eyes.

As she kept reassuring me—never averting her gaze—it was like something instantly struck me that I knew this woman, and waves of confidence, empowerment, and courage flooded into the depths of my being, and I knew that beyond a shadow of a doubt that I did have the ability to say what I needed to say and that people would listen! She told me to go back into the room and not give up, and so with all of these positive feelings surging through me, I returned to the room.

As I opened the door and walked back into the room, the person who was sitting closest to the door moved backwards as I walked past "him" and said "Wow! The energy in the room feels different." As I started to walk back up to the front, the crowd started to quiet without me having to say or do anything, and by the time I was at the front, the room was so quiet you could have heard a pin drop, and I had over 400 pairs of eyes looking at me!

I immediately started the presentation with confidence. After a few minutes of talking, I woke up at around 2:00 AM. I remember waking up so suddenly that I almost jumped out of bed! I was breathing so hard and my heart was pounding as if I'd just run a marathon. I ended up going for a walk to try and process everything since this was the most vivid and strangest dream I'd ever experienced.

Prior to the dream—since I was very young—I've been battling depression, suicidal thoughts, addiction, low self esteem, relationships of poor quality (including emotional, mental, physical, and sexual abuse), low marks in school, loneliness, anger, hatred of myself and others, etc.

I grew up poor, never feeling that I fit in anywhere. It seemed that no matter if I was at school, church, or any other social event, I was always getting picked on, teased, or misunderstood whenever I tried to be myself. So over the years, I turned off the emotional side of me and started building walls around my heart. It seemed like no matter whom I let in close to me I always got hurt, so the walls just kept getting thicker and my view of myself and the world kept getting more and more negative.

I became a very quiet person who got easily nervous and uncomfortable in social situations. It didn't matter if the group was 5, 10, or 20. I just felt so unsure of myself that I found it hard to talk to people because I was always second guessing myself as to whether or not "I should have said that," or "maybe I should have said something else instead," and "what do they think of me, I sound like such an idiot," "maybe I shouldn't have said anything at all..." The list was never ending. I had come to the conclusion that my life and everything else was nothing but a waste of time and meaningless.

After the dream, however, I knew from the very depths of my being that I was supposed to be a teacher/facilitator and help people. There was no question about the "knowing" I had burning inside me of what the direction of my life was going to be. I even tried to talk myself out of it many times but synchronistic events kept happening that kept showing me confirmation. It was as if I had instantly woken up in an alternate universe or reality after the dream.

All the pieces of the puzzle started falling into place and within 2 months of the dream I was standing in front of a group of 15 people sharing my experience. This was an event that I had organized and these people came out just to hear what I had to share! Up until this point I never thought I could organize anything, let alone an event where people would come out to listen to me. Within 6 months of my dream, I organized an event for a friend of mine who has had multiple Near Death Experiences to come into town to share his story, and over 100 attended, including my soul mate/twin flame whom I met at the event!

By the time it was March 2013 I had completed the training to become a certified Outreach facilitator/trainer with The Monroe Institute, and I am now giving lectures, presentations, workshops, and classes for people.

WHAT'S OUTREACH

My partner is a certified Reiki Master practitioner. She teaches classes and workshops alongside of me and on her own as well. The relationship that we have is the most special and amazing I have ever experienced in my life. It was as if the universe knew all my innermost desires and brought the perfect woman to me through synchronicities and confirmation as soon as I started doing what I was meant to do.

As of the time of writing this, I'm now a Certified ESL (English as a Second Language) teacher as well. My life over the last few years since the dream has been the most wonderful and enriching time because I have not stopped my journey of self discovery and have allowed myself to develop more and more everyday to become the person I was born to be—teacher, facilitator, healing practitioner, and mentor.

I know from the very depths of my being that it is 100% possible that you too can create your very own “personal renaissance.”

Help pay it forward! Donate now to the TMI Scholarship Fund.